

OS REGISTRY

U.S. CAPITOL
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FILE

Committees 16A

Executive Registry

79-4524

Also: Security 2

*

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE

ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

July 27, 1979

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

From the very first day that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence began operating, steps were taken at my direction and with the unanimous agreement of the Members to work cooperatively with the Director of Central Intelligence and other responsible Executive Branch officials to ensure that all classified material coming into the Committee's possession would be handled in a secure fashion.

To that end, the Committee established a Registry which receives all classified material, controls access to that material while it is in the Committee's possession and ensures that the material is either destroyed in accordance with the DCI's standards or is returned to the originating office.

This system had worked well and, I believe, has helped develop confidence within the Executive Branch that this Committee is acting responsibly in protecting classified material. I had thought that the Committee's procedures were understood and approved by members of the Executive Branch with whom we deal.

In recent months, however, several incidents have occurred where the Committee's procedures for handling classified material have been bypassed by elements of the Executive Branch who have delivered classified, and in some cases, compartmented intelligence documents to a Member's congressional office and turned them over to uncleared personnel.

I have identified five separate occasions since May 22, 1979, on which classified documents were delivered to Members' offices instead of to the Committee's offices where they could have been properly controlled by cleared personnel. These documents came from the Defense Department, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the Attorney General's office, suggesting that this is a fairly widespread practice. I have no way, of course, of determining how many other members of the House and the Senate have had classified intelligence documents delivered to their offices.

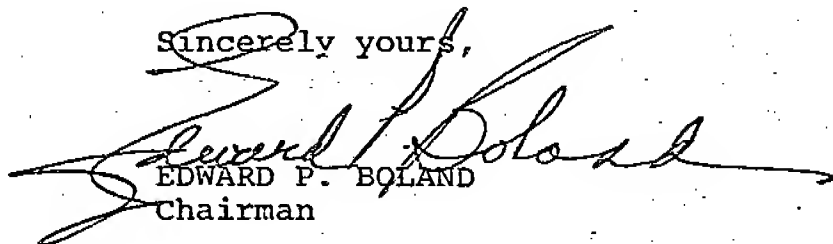
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It seems to me and to the Members of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence that the interests of the Executive Branch, the House of Representatives and the American people are best served if all classified material intended for the use of this Committee and its Members be delivered to the Committee offices in Room H-405, the Capitol, where the Committee's document control system provides appropriate protections for such materials.

I have written to you rather than to Director Turner because the problem appears to extend to departments and agencies beyond his area of authority. This Committee stands ready to assist you in any way to ensure the proper handling of classified intelligence which both branches of government need in order to carry out their respective responsibilities.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,



EDWARD P. BOLAND
Chairman

STATINTL

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Executive Registry
Committees
16A 79-4524/1THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONAlso: Security 2
Also: Records 4

August 6, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Letter from Congressman Boland

The President requested that you receive a copy of the attached letter on inadequate procedures for handling classified material.

We are preparing a draft for Frank Moore's response, and are considering further action.

U. Thiel.

Zbigniew Brzezinski

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE

ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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July 27, 1979

ACK. FM/NSC
CONGRESSIONAL
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AUG 1 1979

cc: OMB

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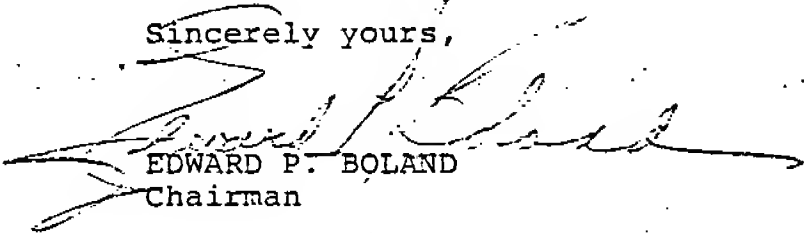
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